



MONTEREY NEWS



FEBRUARY 1998
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STATE HONORS LOCAL PRESERVATIONISTS

On January 9, Massachusetts Environmental Affairs Secretary Trudy Coxe honored local land preservationists at a ceremony at Turkey Bush, the home of Lew and Joyce Scheffey, to celebrate Berkshire County's record-breaking year of open-space protection. More than 1,600 acres of scenic land were preserved in Berkshire County last year alone — ensuring the protection of prime wildlife habitat, wetlands, forests, farmlands, and pastures.

Tad Ames, director of the Berkshire Natural Resources Council, the non-profit organization responsible for preserving the properties, was on hand to welcome and introduce Secretary Coxe. Ames described the various pieces of property that have been protected from future development, "These acres represent farmlands, wetlands, scenic roadside views, river frontage, working forests, and one location, Constitution Hill in Lanesboro, that has a small place in the history books." Ames explained that when the U.S. Constitution was ratified a bonfire was built on the hill to notify local inhabitants.

Secretary Coxe was happy to be in Monterey and warmly conveyed her gratitude. "I drove here from Boston" she said "for one simple reason, and that is to say 'Thank you.' For generations to come, people will be able to enjoy the true beauty and heritage of the Berkshires." Coxe went on to say that "Preserving open space is a priority for the Cellucci administration and Berkshire County has stepped up to the plate with a record-breaking year of land conservation."

Coxe presented citations to Dicken Crane of Windsor, Joyce and Lew Schef-

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Darey

Land lovers gathered are, from left to right, Gidge Geary, Joel Lerner, Mary Brock, Nancy Marcus, John Mason, Lew Scheffey, Joyce Scheffey, Storrs Olds, EOEA Secretary Trudy Coxe, Roger Tryon, Dicken Crane, George Wislocki, Tad Ames, Bob Thieriot, and Warren Archy.

DICK TRYON

fey and Bob Thieriot of Monterey, all landowners who have preserved their property by giving up all future development rights. Tall Pine Farm owner Bob Thieriot preserved 1,000 acres of land, including his 179-acre farm in Monterey — the largest amount of land ever donated by an individual. Fred Chapman was present to accept a citation for the Monterey Preservation Land Trust for its open space preservation efforts, most notably the acquisition of 325 acres on Mount Hunger Road.

Bob Thieriot spoke to the group about "gentle forestry" as a response to those who are critical of land preservation as being detrimental to the local economy. He described the practice as low intensity logging that features no-cut zones near wetlands, and the designation of

"legacy trees" that would be allowed to grow to their maximum size and never harvested. Thieriot stated that this type of land use is like "having your cake and eating it too, only in smaller bites."

The 1,600 acres of open space are protected through the state's conservation restriction program, which allows land owners to permanently preserve the natural beauty and character of their property and prevent any future construction, even if they sell the land. Under the program, land owners agree to transfer development rights to a third party, but can continue to use their property for farming, forestry, or recreation.

Since 1991, more than 19,000 acres of open space statewide has been preserved through this conservation restriction program.

— Maggie Leonard

PRESIDENTS' DAY HOLIDAY OBSERVED

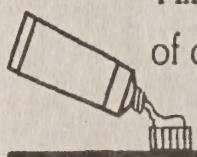
The Monterey Town Hall will be closed on Monday, February 16, 1998, for the observance of Presidents' Day. There will be no meeting of the Monterey Select Board or the Board of Health on Monday, February 16. The next regularly scheduled meeting of these boards will be Monday, February 23, 1998.

— The Monterey Select Board

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The Monterey News is published monthly under the auspices of Monterey United Church of Christ, Monterey, MA 01245.

THE TOWN

Special Town Meeting. A Special Town Meeting has been scheduled by the Select Board for February 27 at 7 p.m. at the Monterey Firehouse. The town will vote on bylaws affecting the use of personal watercraft on Lake Garfield and Lake Buel, and cellular communication towers. The Select Board is holding a public hearing regarding watercraft, i.e. jet skis, for Monday, February 2, at 7:30 p.m. at the Town Hall. On Friday, February 6 at the Town Hall, a public hearing will give citizens an opportunity to air their views on the proposed communications bylaw.

Harbormaster, Dean Amidon, describes jet skis as dangerous recreational toys totally inappropriate for the 273-acre Lake Garfield, which has a long and narrow configuration. Because Lake Buel is also part of Great Barrington as well as Monterey, it is questionable that prohibiting jet skis there will be effective if Great Barrington does not also pass a restriction. Stockbridge passed a ban on jet skis at Stockbridge Bowl, which is much larger than Lake Garfield, that has been in effect for a year.

More Sign Problems. Sandy Banks of Art School Road appeared before the Board January 12 to question what the directional sign policy is. He is concerned about the Bidwell House and Joyous Spring Pottery signs abutting his property. He said he often has people stopping by his house to buy pottery or to inquire if his house is for sale. He was advised that the Planning Board is currently working on a bylaw that will address signage in the town.

Tax Rate Increase. Also on January 12, Assistant Assessor Harry Gustafson, Town Accountant Barbara Gauthier, and Greta Cherneff of the Finance Committee appeared before the Board to discuss the budget for the Annual Town Meeting warrant. A two and one half percent tax rate increase is necessary to meet the inflation factor. This is an increase of twenty two cents from \$8.72 to \$8.94. The tax increase will cover Monterey's share of the Southern Berkshire Regional School District's budget deficit.

From the Massachusetts Department of Revenue. Good news for some. Any owner of residential property in the commonwealth who is not a dependent of another taxpayer and who occupies property as his principal residence, shall be allowed a tax credit equal to forty percent of the expenditures for repair or replacement of failed septic systems. This credit is in reference to Title Five requirements. Further information about this credit is posted at the town hall. Procedures for obtaining the necessary forms and telephone numbers for taxpayer assistance will be outlined in the State Income Tax Form One instructions.

Miscellany. Andi Dunlop has resigned from the Finance Committee to spend more time caring for the newest Dunlop, Clayton Christopher. Her experience and expertise will be missed very much.

The Monterey Preservation Land Trust is preparing to get underway with trail cutting after the snow is gone on the Mount Hunger property. Volunteers to participate for a fun day outdoors should call Storrs Olds at 528-4486.

— Jane Black

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'98 McLAUGHLIN/WILSON SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS

The Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation announces that application forms are now available for the 1998 McLaughlin-Wilson Scholarship. The scholarship fund was established by Edith Wilson in 1995 to aid Monterey's young adults in their future education. Miss Wilson, a sculptor, and Miss Marjorie McLaughlin lived in Monterey for fifty years. Miss Wilson died in 1995.

Preference is given to students as they are entering their first year of higher education after high school. However, applications are welcomed from any Monterey resident pursuing higher education. This may include vocational school, trade school, apprenticeship, college or graduate school. A student can also receive awards over multiple years, but must re-apply annually.

Applicants must be residents of the Town of Monterey, meaning that he/she must have physically lived within Monterey during most of the last two years of high school. Exceptions may be made for boarding school students. Merit is the primary criterion of the awards, but need and other factors will also be considered. Awards generally begin at \$2,500 per student and some will be more substantial. They may be offered either as a scholarship grant award, or as a scholarship loan award, depending upon which is more beneficial to the student.

The deadline for receipt of completed applications is April 30, 1998. To receive an application form, please call 528-8039. Forms will also be available at the Monterey Library and the Town offices.

The McLaughlin-Wilson Scholarship Fund is administered through the Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation. The Foundation's mission is to build and strengthen community through philanthropy in Berkshire, Litchfield, Dutchess, and Columbia counties. BTFC is both a vehicle for philanthropy and a reservoir of the community's goodwill in the form of endowments.

PUBLIC HEARING ON CELLULAR TOWERS

The Monterey Planning Board will conduct a public hearing on Friday, February 6, 1998, at 7 p.m. at the Town Hall on a proposed addition to the Zoning Bylaws with regard to cellular communications towers. The proposed bylaw would regulate the siting, height, appearance, and number of telecommunications towers allowed in the town. The bylaw proposal also includes information regarding the procedures and timelines that must be followed by companies intending to site telecommunications towers within the town.

For the past six months there has been a moratorium on the construction of telecommunications towers in Monterey, and, as of this writing, the town has not

been approached by any telecommunications companies with the intention of siting such a tower. However, with the knowledge that there is no cellular phone service in Monterey, and that the Federal Telecommunications Act of 1996 stipulates that telecommunications companies may not be denied access to a town for any reason, it is prudent for Monterey to plan for its telecommunications future.

Please attend the public hearing so that the Planning Board may benefit from citizen input on this bylaw proposal. A copy of the proposed bylaw and related documents may be viewed at the Town Hall during regular business hours

— Maggie Leonard
Planning Board

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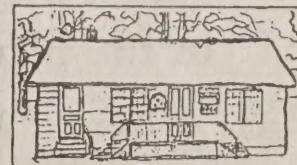
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-- Matthew Breuer, a Roadside regular

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SOLID WASTE

The State of Massachusetts is committed to its goal to achieve forty six percent recycling by the year 2000. To accomplish this they plan, among other things, to expand source reduction initiatives, and to step up their core recycling programs such as recycling equipment grants. This latter program is how we came by our compost bin deal.

Here's how it worked: because of our good recycling record in 1996 we were eligible to apply for and were awarded thirty bins in the spring of 1997, all of which sold within a month. With the proceeds from the sale of those bins we were able to purchase nineteen more, fourteen of which we still have. They are the "Brave New Composter" type and are being offered at \$25, which is over fifty percent off the purchase price. As before — first come first served. The proceeds of these sales will enable us to buy a lesser amount of bins next time around, and so on until the money is used up.

The bins are adjustable and have a capacity of twenty-five square feet, which is, according to the Department of Environmental Protection, the equivalent of about twelve bags of leaves. It has a cone-shaped floor and cover which provide air and moisture to the composting material, requiring a

minimum of maintenance while producing compost in about three months.

So far over 150,000 bins have been distributed statewide. Surveys show that over ninety two percent of purchasers are using their bins, diverting much of their household waste from landfill disposal. Since each bin can compost an average of 750 pounds per year, the diversion from the 150,000 bins adds up to 56,250 tons, which is equivalent to filling 2,812 twenty ton capacity tractor trailer trucks. Now that's a lot of garbage!

As the bins are made from 100% post-consumer recycled plastic they support the "Buy Recycled" initiative. ("Buy recycled" is part of the state requirement for eligibility in Municipal Recycling Incentive Plan or MRIP.)

The bins help hold in heat and moisture, and keep animals out. Leaves will start to turn to compost in three to six months. Compost replenishes nutrients in the soil, helps retain moisture, makes the soil easy to work, and helps plants resist disease. At the same time, turning your leaves, kitchen scraps and soiled paper into compost can reduce your garbage by as much as fifty percent.

Please call Larry Lampman, our district coordinator, at 528-5922 or Joyce Scheffey at 528-0550.

— Joyce Scheffey
Solid Waste Committee

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Went fishing. Had a mess of roasted fish. Worked hard at haying. Use my spare time in reading, sleeping, and going to the City. I love that place.

— Page 53 (words recorded by Elihu Harmon of Monterey, age 21, in 1871)

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INDEPENDENTS

As we near our annual Town Meeting in May, Republicans and Democrats begin their yearly search for citizens to fill committee vacancies and plan the caucuses. It's an exciting process and important to be part of it.

The committees are relatively small, as are the numbers of voters registered under Republican or Democratic parties, in proportion to the total number of registered voters in Monterey. Those actually choosing the candidates, making the decisions, are those few active members of each committee.

As a way for more people to get involved, I would encourage the larger number of Independents to become a member of the political party of their choice; the party that is closest to their way of thinking. Then attend a caucus or join a committee and become part of the machinery that makes our town work. Of course if an Independent had a suggestion it would be welcomed by the committees.

The following quotation is from Barbara Bush's book, *Barbara Bush, A Memoir*, and refers to national politics: "I strongly believe people should pick the ones [parties] that most closely fits their political philosophy and then try to work within the party. So many people criticize our system of government, or the people who run it; yet never would think of attending a precinct meeting. They complain that the party has gone too far left or right and then announce that they are Independents. I think it's a cop-out."

Being an Independent may feel like thinking freely, but it comes down to letting someone else do the job. I am speaking of our town government specifically. Our town is small and we essentially vote the person, not the party, but it's the two committees that do the selecting.

— Fran Amidon

MONTEREY LIBRARY

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Tuesday	9:30 a.m.-noon
Wednesday	3-5 p.m.
Saturday	9:30 a.m.-noon
	7-9 p.m.

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PARKS COMMISSION

Monterey Rink Schedule

The Monterey skating rink, located in the pavilion behind the Monterey Fire House, has been operating sporadically this winter due to the relatively warm temperatures. According to Parks Commission member Jim Thomas, poor conditions are exacerbated by the lack of a seal where the rink boards meet the ground. In past winters, the ice has built up enough to form a kind of seal. Thomas noted that whereas it takes many hours of work to build up the ice for skating, it takes only a few hours of above-freezing temperatures to ruin the rink. One possible future remedy for the situation would be to install a liner, so that even if the ice melts the water would remain to freeze again.

On Saturdays there is a sign in front of the Fire House indicating if there is skating. Conditions permitting, here is the schedule for the skating rink:

Weekdays: skating until 3 p.m., hockey after 3 p.m.

Friday: Men's pick-up hockey 8 p.m.

Saturday: hockey until noon, skating noon-3 p.m., hockey 3-5 p.m., Saturday night skating party 7-9 p.m.

Sunday: Men's pick-up hockey 9 a.m.-noon, skating noon-3 p.m., kids pick-up hockey 3-5 p.m.

The Monterey Cup is scheduled for Saturday, February 14, ice conditions permitting. There will be no public skating that day.

— Maggie Leonard

MONTEREY FOOD CO-OP

The Monterey Food Co-op is a community food buying or pre-order club which has its food distribution every four weeks in the social room (or basement) of the Monterey Church. It was started nearly twenty-five years ago by some of the same people who are still in it now and operates on the principles of neighborly cooperation and direct buying. Right now there are fifteen families who put in their orders every month and then work together to collate, order, sort, and distribute the food. Most members live in Monterey but there are those who drive from Great Barrington, Otis, New Marlborough, and North Egremont.

Each month we put in an order totaling from \$1,500 to \$2,500 for groceries (and bread from the Berkshire Mountain Bakery). A crew meets the delivery truck when it comes and another group arrives the next morning to pack, weigh, and sort. Every member family has a job of some kind, such as packing or bookkeeping, collating or clean-up. The benefits include good food, good prices, and good times during packing especially in the raisin-weighing and joke-exchanging departments.

Some buying clubs have a meeting each month. The Monterey Food Co-op prides itself on having one meeting per year. Anyone interested in joining should call Bonner McAllester, coordinator, at 528-9385.

— Bonner McAllester

POTLUCK REVIVAL

Peter Murkett will be the featured speaker at the Potluck Dinner scheduled for Thursday, February 12, at the Monterey Meeting House. Murkett, a former editor of the *Monterey News*, is the editor of "Monterey, A Local History", a commemorative book published in honor of the town's 1997 sesquicentennial celebration. Murkett will discuss the process of creating the book as well as various aspects of local history.

The potluck is open to all. Coffee and tea, plates and utensils will be provided. Just bring a dish to share. Snow date for the dinner is Thursday, February 19. Potluck dinners were once a regular and popular feature of Monterey community life. The last potluck was held more than two years ago.

— Zed Pine

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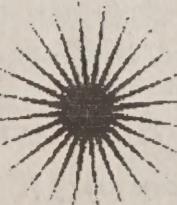
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LAND TRUST NEWS

The board of the Monterey Preservation Land Trust (MPLT) has been meeting frequently with our forester, Peter Tucker. He has done a fantastic job preparing the necessary re-certification work for our Chapter 61 tax designation for the 325-acre property on Mount Hunger. The 1998 Land Trust mailing should be going out in February. It will include a map and the proposed trails for the Mount Hunger property, all prepared by Tucker.

Speaking of trails; volunteers are needed to do work trail blazing on the Mount Hunger property. (See the December Monterey News for details.) For more information please call Storrs Olds at 528-4486. Winter is a good time for this, as long as there isn't too much snow.

At our December board meeting the following officers were selected from the board: Joyce Scheffey, President; Roger Tryon, Vice President; Andrea Dunlop, Treasurer; Mary Brock, Clerk. Other directors are Jane Black, Fred Chapman, Chris Dunlop, Gige O'Connell, and Storrs Olds.

There follows a list of those who joined and re-joined the Land Trust in 1997. Those of you who are members and did not please do. Big Mother is watching you! It saves so much paperwork and general expense not to have to continually follow up on individual memberships. Needless to say new members are not only welcomed, but loved and coddled outrageously.

— Joyce Scheffey

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Bob Thieriot and Secretary of Environmental Affairs Trudy Coxe: It's hard for them to share the same picture frame but they do share a similar frame of mind when it comes to land preservation.

MPLT REJOINERS FOR 1997

Allan, Sylvia
Allen, Alice & Dean
Bach, David & Judy
Baker/MacAllester Family
Banner, Maureen & Mike
Bernstein, Bebe & Owen
Black, Jane
Bloom, Ed & Ellie
Bodian, Gene & Lorna
Bodin, Murray & Jeanne
Brandwein, Charles & Sydney
Brinberg, Simeon
Bronstein, Arthur & Elsa
Brown/Hearon Family
Brown, Pete & Joan
Budick, Cynthia & Burton
Burkhart, Wayne & Donna
Chapman, Fred & Chandler
Cesario, Virginia
Chernoff, Gretta and Marty
Christopher/O'Connell Family
Dean/Shapiro Family
Dodyk, Delight & Paul
Dunlap, Richard
Dunlop, Chris & Andi
Dunlop, Ed & Gladys
Dunlop/Sellew Family
Ellerkmann, Mark
Emmel, Bob & Sally
Finger, Carl
Fijux, Sally
Finicane, Anne & Sean
Fletcher, Rachel
Germain, Jean
Hiland, Page
Howell/Andersen Family
Humphrey/Leonard Family
Husten, Carol
Jaffe, Marjorie & Barry
Kaminstein, Judith
Kelly, Bruce & Denise
Kraft, Mel & Kathy
Ladov, Sue & Norman
Lipsky, Jed & Annika
McAllester, David & Beryl
McGaughy, Tim & Ellen
Melnick, Helen
Miller/Murkett Family
Monk, Arthur
Mortenson, Judith
Newman, Anne & Herb
O'Connell, Gige
Olds, Storrs & Shirley
Paul, Marc
Pearl, Bud & Shirley
Perces, Marjorie & Paul
Perin, Jane & Richard
Rausch, Bob
Reich/Cader Family
Roberts, Katherine & Marc
Roper, Eric & Alice
Rosenthal, Tom & Ellen
Ryals, Hildegard
Scheffey, Joyce & Lew
Schick, Alice & Joel
Seirup, Alice & Joel
Seirup, Brian & Leticia
Seirup, Dorothy & John
Seirup, Lynn & John
Sellew/Bronson
Semaya, Sam & Evelyn
Shanesy, Carol
Smith, Jackie
Snow/Lampman Family
Somers, Arthur & Alice
Spagnoletti Family
Swan, William
Tessler, Arthur
Thieriot, Robert
Transport, Ira
Vallianos, Peter & Evelyn
Vining, Eileen
Volckhausen, Jane & Walter
Wagner, Angie & Frederick
Ward, Ray & Mary
Webb, Terry & Sylvie
Weisman, Lynn & Lennie
Wing, Joan & Arthur
Wislocki, George & Alice
Zaret, Minna & Saul

NEW MARLBOROUGH CENTRAL AND MONTEREY SCHOOL

Even though we are barely into the new year, plenty is happening at New Marlborough Central School (NMC). The ski program at Butternut has begun. Already two sessions have taken place and old and new skiers alike are schussing down the slopes sporting mile-wide smiles.

Third and fourth graders did some "baking" in a recent after school craft activity. The delicious smells of pot-pourri pie wafted from Mr. Weston's room. Mini pie tins, potpourri, and felt "crust" were used by the chefs to cleverly assemble these delightful room fresheners.

In weeks to come students at NMC will be doing a bit of traveling. Their destination-Peru. Shared Discovery will visit this South American country through various activities starting with a slide show presentation courtesy of Jane Burke. More on this travel adventure next month.

— Deborah Mielke

A SURE SIGN OF SPRING

Any call I make at this time of year, is known to be about daffodils. I'm waking up the workers from their long winter's nap. For the few who don't know, Daffodil Days are a fund raiser for the American Cancer Society. Cut daffodils are budded and sold in bunches of ten for a donation of \$5. Your friends and neighbors will be calling to solicit your donation and collect the money. You collect your bouquet at The Monterey General Store. Simple and successful!

This is our fourteenth year and the fund-raiser has gained in popularity each of those years. The deadline for ordering is Friday, March 13. The pickup date is Thursday, March 26.

Though many are contacted, there are still some who are missed. So if you don't receive a call and the time is drawing near—please don't hesitate to call: Fran Amidon 528-1233 or Jane Kessler 528-1023. Tell your Monterey friends about Daffodil Days for a bit of cheer in March.

— Fran Amidon

DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE

The Town Committee of the Democratic Party will caucus at 2 p.m. at the Monterey Firehouse on Saturday, February 7, to elect two delegates and two alternates to the Democratic Convention in June. Candidates must be present, voting, and available to give written consent to their nomination.

The caucus also needs to approve Charlie Ferris as acting chair of the Monterey Democratic Party. (He cannot be officially elected as chair until the next presidential election.)

The party regrets the retirement of Mel Dyer-Bennett and is grateful for the years she has served as chair of Monterey Democrats. Also, the party welcomes Charlie with gratitude for taking the helm.

The meeting will be very short. We urge all voting Democrats of Monterey to attend.

— Jane Black

REPUBLICAN COMMITTEE

The following are important meeting dates for the town Republican Committee: Saturday, February 14, 1 p.m., at the Amidon's house on Sandisfield Road; and Saturday March 7, 1 p.m., at the Monterey Fire House, for a meeting and to caucus. All Republicans are encourage to attend. We will be selecting a delegate to attend the State Convention and nominating candidates for local office. Anyone desiring to run for office should notify Mark Makuc (528-1382) or Dean Amidon (528-1233).

— Fran Amidon

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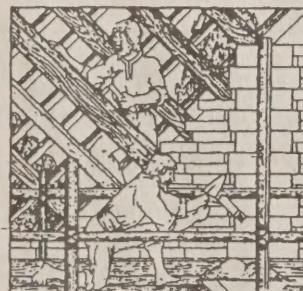
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CHURCH OR MEETING HOUSE

Is there a difference?

Often, when someone uses the word "church" in conversation the first image that comes to mind is a building with a tall steeple or belfry attached to the roof. Understandable, but, unfortunately, it is only partially true. A look at *The American Dictionary* reveals that the word is derived from the Greek word "kuriakon", meaning "the Lord's place." This is derived from the Greek word "kurios" which means Lord. We have become so accustomed to using the word to mean a building that we have lost, I believe, the more significant meaning. Which brings me back to the words "meeting house" and "church."

When the Capital Campaign was initiated last spring, the reason was, and

remains, quite simple: to repair and renovate the 1847 building on the corner of Route 23 (Main Road) and Tyringham Road. That's why the name "Monterey Meeting House" was chosen, as opposed to "Monterey United Church of Christ." The former more accurately describes a community building that has been used for all kinds of political (town meetings), cultural (music and drama), social (community suppers), religious (preaching the Gospel), and other gatherings. According to Kathy Page Wasiuk, in her article printed in the October 1996 *Monterey News*, a town could not be incorporated until a meeting house had been built. With the separation of church and state, all that changed.

I am raising this issue because I continue to hear the question from people who are being asked to contribute to the Capital Campaign: "What's the church doing for the community?" I think the question is being asked because the person believes that it is supposed to be sponsoring various social and cultural events for the town. This is where it helps to be a little clearer about definitions. The church, as I understand it, is a community of people who have committed themselves to a profession of the Christian faith as it is best expressed in Jesus of Nazareth. It is not a clearinghouse for a social and cultural calendar of events. To put it more baldly, it is not a booking agency!

However, the meeting house can and should be a place for all those wonderful community events that many of us would like to see happen, as they have not for a few years. It is not exclusively a meeting place for the Monterey United Church of Christ. Although, unfortunately, that is how the building is perceived. This community of Christian believers is only using the meeting house as it presently suits its purposes. And it does own the deed to the property. But the church, that is, the religious community, is not the building, which is the meeting house, and vice versa.

I hope this makes sense, because I think it is an important distinction. In fact, I think it is time to publicly discuss whether or not the religious community should be the sole and exclusive owner of the meeting house. It makes sense to discuss this, because most of the money that is being received for the Capital Campaign is coming from the wider community, not the religious community. And if this building is to be truly a meeting house for the cultural, social, and educational events of the town, then it makes sense to consider some other umbrella of ownership for this historic and invaluable gathering place. Any thoughts?

— Keith Snow, Pastor
Monterey United Church of Christ

CHARLES J. FERRIS Attorney at Law



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THE FAMILY NETWORK/ CHILDREN'S HEALTH, INC.

The Family Center is located at 940 South Main Street, Great Barrington; call 528-0721 for more information. All activities are at the Family Center, unless otherwise noted.

Sledding safety. The South Berkshire Task Force on Families and Children included a list of safety hints for sledding in their January 1998 newsletter. For young children sledding should always be supervised by an adult. "All participants must sit in a forward-facing position, steering with their feet or a rope tied to the steering handles of the sled. No one should slide head-first down a slope. Wear layers of clothing for protection from injuries." Family Centers have complete copies of these safety rules recommended by the American Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons.

Laurie Flower, Coordinator of the South Berkshire Task Force for Families and Children, will be leaving that position. We wish to thank her for her devotion and hard work.

Winter safety hints. The *Berkshire Eagle* recently printed a good list of ways to childproof your home. Copies are available at the Family Center. Here are some of the more creative ideas: "Avoid catching little fingers under the lid of a piano keyboard or a chest by gluing small blocks of cork to the lower edge of the lid. Drape a thick towel over the top of a door to prevent your child from closing and locking it. Children are fascinated by the way VCR's seem to swallow up videotapes. Keep your machine from "eating" other items by either placing the VCR out of reach or by putting a protective cover over the slot. To make your own cover, build a box out of one-quarter-inch plywood and fit it over the entire unit. To a running child, a closed sliding glass door can easily seem to be open. Prevent painful accidents by attaching colorful decals to the glass just below the child's eye level. Never leave a child unattended in the kitchen or bathroom. When cooking - turn pot handles away from the edge of the stove."

Most important reminder. It is not safe for children to ride in the front seat of cars. Air bag injuries are very dangerous. Children should be in proper car seats in the back seat of the car, prefer-

ably in the middle of the seat.

Lending Library Additions: Umbilical Cord Blood Banking - a program of blood banking used instead of bone marrow to treat a variety of cancer and blood diseases like leukemia, lymphoma and aplastic anemia. Due to the popularity of certain videos, we have had to replace the potty training videos and the childbirth videos. We now have new potty videos including "Winston's Potty Chair," more Preschool Power videos, "Pregnancy and Labor" videos in English and Spanish, "Germ Busters" videos that teach children to clean up well, flush, wash your hands, brush your teeth, take a bath, and take your time. Please check the library to see if there is something you would like to borrow. We wish to compliment Chrissie Esch, our volunteer librarian, who is doing a great job of keeping the items in order.

Here is our calendar.

Family Center Drop-in times: Great Barrington - Mondays noon-2 p.m. Tuesdays and Fridays 3-5 p.m.; Wednesdays and Thursdays 10 a.m.-noon. Saturdays 10 a.m.-noon. Otis Town Hall, Thursdays 9:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m. Families can use the playroom, clothing exchange, lending library and meet with staff people during drop-in hours. If these are inconvenient, please call for an appointment.

Every Monday and Friday. Play and Learn Group for three and four year olds, registration required 9 a.m.-noon. No meeting on February 16 and 20 due to school vacation.

Every Monday. Fathers Group 7 p.m.

Every Tuesday. Mother-Baby Exercise Class 8:30 a.m. Pre-registration required. Childcare available.

Every Tuesday. English As a Second Language Class 9:30 a.m. Pre-registration required. Childcare available.

Every Wednesday and Thursday, except for February 18 and 19. Parent-Child Playgroups 9:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m. Please call Center for playgroup information in other towns.

February 3. Licensed Day Care Providers Support Group 7 p.m.

February 4. Breastfeeding Support Group 9:30 a.m. Center for Pediatric and Adolescent Health Care, Fourth Floor, Fairview Hospital. For information please call 413-528-8580.

February 5. Dinosaur Day at Ashley Falls playgroup 9:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m. All are invited for Dinosaur Activities and a snack. Grace Bible Church, Clayton Road. Call for more information.

February 7. Fathers Retreat at Kripalu Center, Lenox. Call for information.

February 12. Family Network Advisory Board Meeting, noon.

February 12. Big Brother, Big Sister, Sibling of Newborn preparation class, led by Mary Jane Sackett 3:30 p.m. Please register.

February 14. Story time led by Kathleen Bracken, Sandisfield Public Library, 10 a.m. Sponsored by Sandisfield Arts Council and Children's Health Program.

February 16. Family Center will be closed for holiday.

February 18. Drumming with Heidyn, Children will make a drum and do some drumming activities 10:30 a.m.

February 18. Free roller-skating at Searles School, Great Barrington 3-5 p.m. Sponsored by South Berkshire Task Force for Families and Children.

February 19. Story time with activity 10:30 a.m.

February 20. Winter fun at Gould Farm. Meet at McKee house at 10 a.m. Story, visit animals, sledding.

February 26. Playgroup leader meeting 6:30 p.m.

Happy Valentine's Day!



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Shravan Neill

SENATOR SAYS

The legislature is back in session after our holiday recess. During the recess, I traveled throughout the district, meeting with groups of constituents, holding open office hours in Monroe and Chester, and attending various events and meetings. On one recent day, I met with local Highway Superintendents in Lenox, a coalition of health care providers in North Adams, and the call and volunteer fire fighters association in Lee.

Money for Local Roads and Bridges. Chapter Ninety is the name for money the state sends to municipalities to maintain local roads and bridges. The amount paid to each municipality is determined by a formula.

In the late 1980's, the Chapter Ninety account suffered from budget cuts as the Commonwealth fought its way back from a budget deficit. Funding has been made more predictable in recent years as the state has used the transportation bond bills to provide a relatively reliable source of funding for the Chapter Ninety account.

In early October, Governor Cellucci filed a supplemental budget (H5001) which proposed moving \$50 million of the Chapter Ninety money for local roads and bridges out of the Transportation Bond Bill authorization, and into the budget. By using surplus budget funds on hand, the Governor plans to free up bonding capacity, making room for other

projects for which the state would like to issue bonds.

Because of the recent history of budget cuts undermining Chapter Ninety, the Massachusetts Municipal Association (MMA) was alarmed by the Governor's proposal. The MMA has two concerns with the Governor's proposal for Chapter Ninety:

First, annual costs for Chapter Ninety have been running about \$130 million. H5001 proposes to move \$50 million out of the transportation bond and into the budget. Of the amount remaining in the Transportation Bond for Chapter Ninety purposes in FY98, it sets a cap of \$50 million. This would be \$30 million less than MMA projects is needed for full funding. Governor Cellucci met with MMA and told them that there was no intent to cap reimbursements at \$100 million and that the administration would file an additional supplemental request if Chapter Ninety requests for fiscal 1998 exceed the \$100 million.

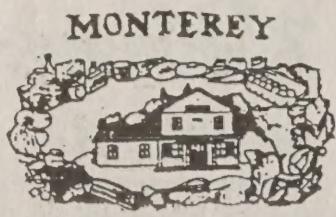
MMA's second concern is the potential for cuts or even elimination of the program in later years when Massachusetts experiences its next economic slowdown or recession. The group concedes that it is an issue worthy of debate, but says they see more risk to steady funding for the program if constituted as an appropriations item in an annual budget bill as opposed to a bonded-fund item. The Governor's finance people argue the opposite position, saying that the tight

bond cap is creating problems right now.

I met with the local highway superintendents at the legislative breakfast of the District One Highway Superintendents' Association earlier this month. Your state Representatives and I assured those in attendance that we are unified in our support for continuing adequate funding for local roads and bridges through the Chapter Ninety account. It is a fact of geography that the small towns of western Massachusetts have more public roads to maintain than they have property taxes to pay for them. Your local Finance Committees need to have a predictable amount of state support for roads in order to plan other expenditures in their annual budgets. H5001 is currently in the House Ways & Means Committee. Be assured that your state representatives and I will be working to protect Chapter Ninety funds, in order to safeguard reliable funding for transportation in western Massachusetts.

An Encore to a Stegosaurus. I am looking forward to the Robot Zoo which opens at the Berkshire Museum in early February. This touring show features mechanized versions of animals and insects, and has received critical acclaim nationwide. With the generous support of local businesses, the Berkshire Museum was chosen as the only New England location for the wonderfully fun and educational exhibit. The program promises great fun for kids from one to one hundred - don't miss it!

— Senator Andrea F. Nuciforo, Jr.



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REP RAP

As we start off 1998 I would like to take the opportunity to wish all of you the best in the New Year and to update you on one of my top priorities for the coming year. I have been working to bring a bike path to Berkshire County which would be open to bicyclists, in-line skaters, walkers, runners, wheel chair users and in the winter, cross country skiers.

In the 1996 Open Space Bond Bill, I was able to secure funding for a bike way along the Housatonic River from North Adams to Sheffield. In addition I was able to include language in the 1997 Transportation Bond Act which directs MassHighway to undertake a feasibility study for a bike path from North Adams to Sheffield. Furthermore Peter C. Webber, Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Management, has committed a staff person to the project for technical assistance.

With these mechanisms in place, I went to several outdoor events because in order for this project to become a reality we need people to actively participate. After receiving wide spread support for such a project from a sign up sheet at the Josh Billings with over two hundred names of people who want to be involved with the construction of a bike path and numerous calls to my office, I also requested the involvement of the Ashwilliticook River Trail Committee in north county and the Great Barrington Riverwalk, both of which are already in the process of pursuing bikepaths in those specific areas, so as to form a true county wide effort on this issue.

The first meeting of the Berkshire Bicycle Committee was held last December with over one hundred people in attendance. Those attending the meeting were overwhelmingly supportive of a bike path in Berkshire County. A bike path would offer an economic stimulus and increase recreational potential to the whole county. Communities in Berkshire County would benefit from a bike path through increased tourism dollars, higher property values and the conservation of valuable land while providing a safe means of transportation and recreation for people of all ages.

©MAGGIE LEONARD



Representative Chris Hodgkins and Dick Tryon were present at the ceremony to salute local conservation restriction land donors on January 9.

Building from the first and very constructive meeting of the Berkshire Bicycle Committee, that group will meet again before the end of January to conduct an inventory of potential areas for the bike path. Further down road we will need the approval of each town that the bike path is proposed to run through. This promises to be an exciting initiative and I urge everyone to get involved. For further information on this or any other issue, please do not hesitate to contact my full-time district office at 243-0289.

— Rep. Christopher J. Hodgkins

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wished all day
through the swirling
thick as sour cream
thaw and misty
you'd speak to me
poetically
soft and sweet
dancing twirling
up and up away

should've known
read the writing
loud as coyote
five years gone
heard the wailing
foggy moans
smelled its bloody
in the rising
shadows undone

no resolution
for the new year
social pressures
what desperation
no one loved you?
just desolation
was this your cure
for all your fears
this dissolution?

despise these poems!
these odes to death!
darkening dusk
January's thaw
don't come to me
with earth so raw
devoid of lust
devoid of breath
'cause no one's home!

A BERKSHIRE WINTER

The naked trees like skeletons now stand,
Staunch silhouettes against a sunset sky;
Their ice-clad branches creaking in the wind
While from chimneys plumes of smoke are rising high.
Old Boreas his organ music plays
And often howls and whistles through the night,
Dipping and whirling in frolicsome ways
Piling the snow into mountains of white.

Then there are days in winter when the sun
Spreads scores of diamonds on the crusted snow,
Though conifers are bending to the ground
The howling, boisterous, winds have ceased to blow.
So peaceful is the stillness when the wind
Seems lost to oblivion once more
And flocks of birds, to feed, come sailing in,
Casting fleet shadows on my kitchen floor.

— Eleanor Kimberly



©WAYNE DUNLOP

— R. Zukowski

Just hanging out. Cheese at Rawson Brook Farm.

GEOMETRY

*There is a center to the soul
Some point that's pinned to spirit
From which we depend, effulging
Into all dimensions.
You will not find this
Grave geometry of being
In any dictionary of doubts,
But I have found from my own heart
There's no perimeter to wonder -
The radius of hope
Sweeps but larger arcs of love.*

— A.O. Howell

BERKSHIRE WINTER FOUR P.M., GOING SOUTH

*Set free from the dull green, glowing screen,
I grab my coat and stuff and
hurry out where the sun is slipping below the hilly horizon.
Into my car and zig-zagging through the streets of Pittsfield
to the highway,
I turn off into Lenox and enter a church
where people are beating their brows and
wallowing in discontent.
I sit obediently, till a thought breaks like an egg over my head
and drips down around me like a shroud, whispering
“Leave.”
And I rise clumsily, but with newfound power,
retracing my steps to the car where I notice the orange disk is completely gone;
yet, there's light enough.
I fly through the streets, marvelling at Stockbridge Bowl,
then continue my weave into the town center.
Just through it, I see another, paler, shimmering disk
alight in the eastern sky.
And the mountains seem to be dancing in its presence,
All the way home to Monterey.*

WINTER SUNSET

*Another moment passed
When the space you occupy
Is empty
Of all but memory

When the beauty
That fills my eyes
Seems to murmur
“He is here
In this instant, in this glory
He is here.”*

*But my arms are empty
I hear nothing
But the wind
I see nothing
But remote, perpetual splendor
I feel no touch
But the cold,
I feel foolish and alone*

— Leslie Givet

— Laura Gaccione

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WILDLIFE SURVEY

Mountain Lion. Ellen Pearson gives us the location of the sighting reported in the January issue: "...the mountain lion you mentioned in the last Wildlife Survey was sighted near my northern border while Bill and Ray Kirby were hunting (with permission) on my property. I told them to call you about it...When it snows again, I'll go look for tracks myself. Meanwhile we can quietly celebrate Nature on Ice."

Dorothy Everett Seirup found moral support in the story: "January 6, 1988, I was so excited to read your article... which was delivered today. My husband, Jack, and I saw a mountain lion in September in Windham, New York, but I never boasted about it because we could get no confirmation of any other sighting.

We watched the animal through binoculars from a distance of about three hundred feet, for several minutes while it walked along the east shore of little Lake Heloise. We have a lakeside campsite there at White Birches Campsite. As we watched, we described the lion aloud to each other, noting all distinctive characteristics. The next day I took animal books from the library to study the pictures and reassure ourselves that was truly what we had seen. Now I can really believe our eyes!"

January Thaw. Loul McIntosh noted several manifestations of spring in our brief interim, in mid-January. The maple sap was running: Brian Snyder saw the sap dripping from broken branches for several days. Snowdrop leaves came pushing up by the doorway on the sunny side of Loul's

house, at Gould Farm. She picked up a woolly-bear caterpillar who had come out of winter shelter and was walking about, Friday, January 9. A great many snow fleas had come up onto the sill of her front door, a thing she had never seen before. Usually they are on the snow, as their name implies, or gathered on puddles or other wet places. And Bohemian waxwings were here feeding in a highbush cranberry bush, another unusual sighting for this time of year.

A barred owl haunting birdfeeders. The Oldses on Blue Hill Road and the Amidons on New Marlborough Road have reported a barred owl (very likely the same one) perching here and there around their houses and especially in the vicinity of the bird feeders, in broad daylight, over a period of several days in early January. The Oldses have taken pictures and so has Eleanor Kimberley, whom they alerted. The Amidons watched chickadees darting in and snatching seeds even when the owl was on the feeder! It may be that its mind was focused on the possibility of squirrels or mice coming to pick up seeds from the ground.

Some wildlife that seems to be scarce this year. Dale Duryea comments that coyotes, muskrats, and gray squirrels seem to be few and far between at this survey period. A friend of his in Sandisfield also notes how few coyotes there are at present. The only muskrat Dale has seen was at the outlet of Lake Garfield at the end of December. It was on the ice by the open water there and, at Dale's approach, it went into the lower pipe, below the three large culverts.

Other sightings reported by Dale: a red-tailed hawk, January 11, flying across Route 23; deer in his orchard; two beavers in the Konkapot at the Curtis Road bridge; otter tracks on Brett Road; a grouse, and a lot of turkeys in the woods across the road from his house.

Bobcat doings. Dale saw tracks near Eaton Road that seemed to be headed right for the center of town; a cat, or the cat, itself, was seen on the east edge of the Edith Wilson property; a bobcat was seen by the Grotz family, out behind their house, in hot pursuit of a deer.

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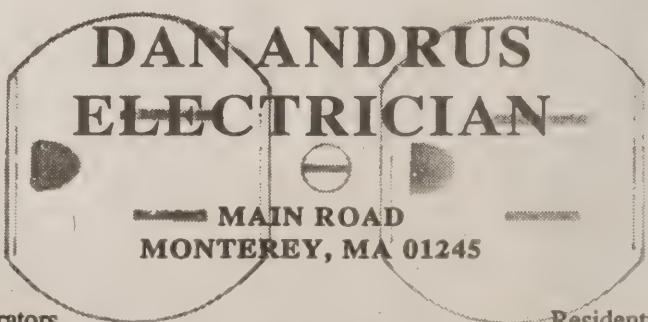
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— David P. McAllester

MASKED SHREW ON NEW YEAR'S DAY

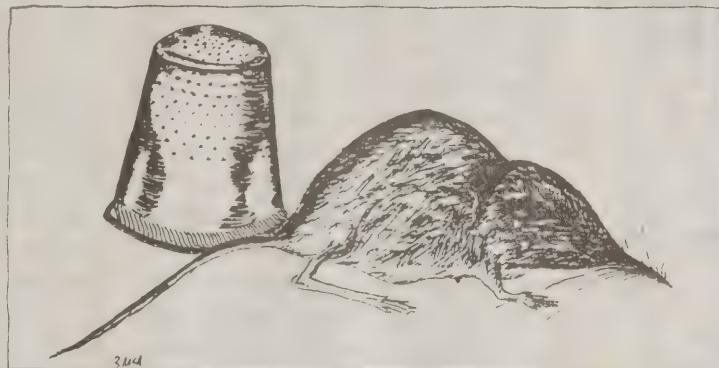
We were in such a classic January thaw the week after New Year's that it was hard to remember temperatures here had been fifty degrees colder the week before. That was how 1998 came in at our place: serious. We had gone to a concert and a party the night before, zipping home in between celebrations to top up the woodstove and check the dog. This was the first time we'd gone off and left him in the house with the stove going. We have a fear of fire and have not yet installed a dog-door. The cat has doors upstairs and down, so we imagine she could get out if the house went up in smoke.

New Year's Eve the dog stayed in, drowsy and warm, and the cat went out in the clear cold. She patrolled the shoveled paths, deep snow on either side, checked under the barn and woodshed. The next morning when I went out to look at 1998, I found a tiny body just outside the summer kitchen door. Susan the pampered housecat was not the only creature stirring during that turnover night. She had found and killed a two-inch masked shrew, the tiniest mammal in these parts.

Shrews at first glance look like mice. But their noses are so long and pointy, their eyes so nearly invisible, that any observer will wonder if this "mouse" isn't just a little strange. A closer look at the long delicate feet reveals five toes front and hind, whereas most mice have four in front and five behind. The teeth of mice are in the typical rodent arrangement with big chisel-like incisors in front, then a gap, then grinding molars at the rear of the jaw. Shrews have teeth all along the jaw and all are cutters; none of them are for grinding. The shrew is a predator, a meat-eater, an insectivore (technically) who also kills and eats earthworms, snakes, and sometimes mice.

Our New Year's shrew is a "masked shrew." The tips of its teeth are red, which is typical of many species of

shrews, and its fur is grey. The belly is much paler than the upper parts, and the tail, which is an inch and a half long, is also dark above and pale below. I need a hand lens to see the eyes and ears, and even then they appear more as indentations in the fur than as recognizable features. The long sensitive nose sprouts a fine array of whiskers, thirty on a side, with the ones near the tip being short and curved forward while the more rear whis-



kers are long and point straight back.

What was this scrap of life doing out and about on such a cold night? Shrews are busy all the time. Their metabolic rate is so high (heartbeat is 1,200 times per minute) that they can starve to death in four hours if they don't get something to eat. In winter they push their way through snow, tunneling easily the way mice do. They will not find snakes, worms, or adult insects, though they might come upon overwintering insect larvae. Mice are active all winter and can make a good meal for a hungry shrew.

Shrews have a high, musical twittering song, and some species are known to use these high frequencies for echo-location. I read an account by a nineteenth-century naturalist who sat by his campfire one frosty night listening to night sounds and realized he was hearing a twittering like songbirds. By firelight he could just make out, at last, two tiny furry shapes dashing back and forth on a log and he realized the singing came from these shrews. Minutes passed and more shrews joined the racing and singing, possibly a family. Finally the man lay down but at first he couldn't sleep because of shrews running over his blanket.

Then he did doze off, only to wake suddenly as a one-tenth ounce shrew ran across his face. According to him it was this sudden waking which allowed him to hear and to recognize the danger in a sharp "crack!" so that he jumped out of the way just before a tree fell right where he had been sleeping.

We have another common species of shrew in these parts, called the short-tailed shrew, which lacks the colorful teeth of the masked shrew but has got a poisonous bite. Glands in its mouth produce a neurotoxin which mixes with saliva and quickly enters a bite wound. Biologist Oliver P. Pearson injected shrew venom into mice and found that in less than a minute it produced a state of semi-torpor, lowering the blood pressure, slow-

ing the heart, and inhibiting breathing. The bite of a shrew is not dangerous to people, but in medieval times in England and as late as 1770, shrews were thought to cause various ailments in cattle. Farmers would make a charm to ward off shrew-induced ailments by hanging a dead shrew around the neck of a horse or cow. They also doctored up ash trees to make them into "shrew-ashes" with medicinal properties. To do this, a hole was bored in the trunk and a hapless live shrew stuffed inside, then the hole was plugged. After that the shrew-ash could supposedly cure cattle of lameness caused by shrews, or even children of whooping cough. Our shrew was given to us by Ma Nature and the Cat, first thing New Year's Day. We put it in our magic "shrew-fridge" in the freezer unit, and in the first week it cured us of many ignorance's to do with shrews. Also, Joe's cold got better and the pony, who was lame in her right knee for months, due to arthritis and a bone chip, trots now without a limp.

— Bonner J. McAllester

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MARION SCHNEIDER

Mrs. Marion G. Schneider, 98, formerly of Main Road, died Wednesday, December 17, at Berkshire Place in Pittsfield where she had resided since 1993. Born in Brooklyn, New York, on October 9, 1899, the daughter of Dr. Henry M. and Amelia Lichtenberg Groehl, she was a 1923 graduate of Barnard College in New York. A summer resident of Monterey since she was a child, she moved there permanently in 1954. Mrs. Schneider was a volunteer and 25-year treasurer of the Southern Berkshire Visiting Nurse Association, a volunteer driver for the American Red Cross, and a member of Tuesday Night Bridge Club. She was a Republican Committee woman for the town of Monterey and a member of the Republican Women's Club of Great Barrington. She was also a member of the Ladies Aid Society of the United Church of Christ in Monterey. Her husband, Emil H. Schneider, died August 4, 1959. She leaves a son, Robert G. Schneider of Hendersonville, North Carolina; a daughter, Mrs. Barbara Wilks of Windsor Locks, Connecticut; four grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

LUCIE LANCOME

Mrs. Lucie Lancome, 90, of Monterey died January 2, at Fairview Manor in Great Barrington.

Born in Brussels, Belgium, on April 16, 1907, daughter of Will and Frieda Friedberg Dreissen, she attended school there studying art history.

Mrs. Lancome and her husband, Fred Lancome, whom she married in 1933, owned and operated a hat salon in Paris, France. They came to the United States in 1940, on the last ship that left France before the ports were closed by the Nazis, and settled in New York City. They owned and operated a hat salon there and had such notable customers as Helena Rubenstein, the perfume magnate.

After the war, the couple moved to Monterey where they owned and operated the Sun-Inside, a French inn and restaurant. Mrs. Lancome retired in 1985 when they closed the Sun-Inside. Her husband died in 1997.

Mrs. Lancome was also a substitute teacher at Mount Everett High School for many years, teaching mainly French.

She served one term on the School Committee of the Southern Berkshire Regional School District as a representative of Monterey.

She leaves a son, Claude Lancome of Marblehead, Massachusetts; a granddaughter and two great-granddaughters.



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SNOW-WHITE WILDLIFE

What happened? If we were dreaming of a white Christmas, we got our wish. But when Mother Nature rang in the new year, she turned over a new leaf with a surprising random weather variation that buried woodlands to the northwest under tons of ice crystals.

We know that the last major cycle of the ice age ended when global warming rescued this part of the country out from under the Wisconsin Glacier. Now we look to the near-term forecasts from the weather service or the Old Farmer's Almanac hoping to find a favorable pattern of predictions that is written in the stars of our weather horoscope.

A computerized crystal ball. For example, the University of North Carolina collects and computerizes a myriad of weather predicting data to project and publish an annual accurate forecast. Their subscribers include heating oil companies that use the forecast as a guide on which to base their seasonal inventory levels. One dependable factor in this formula is the thickness of animal skins in anticipation of a severe winter.

A white rabbit. As paths of planets pass in the sky, if there is a pre-destined fall out far down on earth

that will white-out our landscape, the indigenous snowshoe hare is a living example of wildlife species adapting to meteoric phenomena.

This happens when a sufficient number of consecutive days of cold temperatures are conducive to snow conditions. Then the brown fur develops splashes of white. About halfway through this transition, usually around the end of November, equal but random areas of white and brown are separated in lines of a camouflage design. Further north, the hare is totally white at this time.

Senior species. Several species of birds in the Berkshires are white all year 'round, such as the sea gulls we see over the mall parking lot, the swans tipping up along the shores of open waters, and the snow geese migrating high overhead. All have black wing feathers which contain the pigment melanin which makes them less subject to wear and tear in flight. However their white plumage does not turn snow-white until they develop out of adolescence into maturity.

The absence of color altogether, as

in an albino deer, is an entirely separate phenomenon, and an affliction of a pigment deficiency, that renders any animal visibly vulnerable to predators except under snow conditions. White mice with pink eyes are albinos that are purposely and usefully bred by laboratories for scientific reasons.

As mid-winter approaches, the earth is slowly tilting on its axis to turn the face of the northern hemisphere into the sun once again. A snowy owl may have already paid us a visit from the north, but remained invisible. A snowy owl is classified as diurnal, able to hunt by day or night. Much farther north, it will be months before the arctic fox and the ptarmigan (white partridge) will begin to lose their whiteness; and revert back to the earth-tones of the tundra.

A white buffalo. In the Mid-west there is a singular white buffalo, born on an animal farm, and the first on record for a hundred years. To native Americans this is the spirit buffalo, and a gift of great consequence from Mother Nature. In their mythology, they call her "white buffalo calf woman" and her gift is considered an omen of great joy and peace on earth, which will herald enlightenment of Indian ways and respect for the environment.

And we were just dreaming of a white Christmas!

— George Emmons

WE'VE MOVED!

PRECISION AUTOCRAFT INC.

(Formerly on Main Road next to Roadside Store)

After almost 18 years of operation on Main Road in Monterey, we were finally forced to admit that we had outgrown our two locations here in town. So we've relocated to a 4800 sq. ft. facility (soon to be 7200 sq. ft. with a new state-of-the-art paint department) on Route 7, 1.5 miles south of the old fairgrounds. We'd like to invite all of our friends and customers to stop in and say hello, to take a look around our new shop. And as always, we offer free pickup and delivery, and lifetime collision repair and PPG paint guarantees. Thank you for your support.

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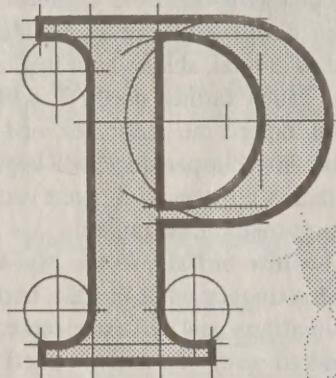
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PERSONAL NOTES

Alice Howell sent in a note signed "From a proud grandma" reporting that Montereyan Cameron King was ranked second in the nation in his age group (16-20) in a NASTAR ski event. Cameron's father, Al King, explained that NASTAR is geared to the recreational skier and is not a highly competitive ranking system. However Cameron is also racing in U.S.S.A. (United States Ski Association) races on weekends and finishing in the top ten. U.S.S.A. is the governing body of the U.S. Ski Team. Go for it Cameron!

A very happy birthday to Gige O'Connell on February 1, to Mark Makuc and Donna Trumbull on February 2, to Mike Mielke Jr. on February 7, to Claude "Tim" Burke and Bob Rausch on February 9, to Ann Higgins on February 11, to Jack Jefferson and Lanny Lanoue on February 14, to Dave Gauthier on February 15, to Maryellen Brown and Arnold Pratt on February 16, to Kim Gero on February 18, to Rachel Rodgers on February 20, to Maggie Clawson and Dick Tryon on February 22, to Jim Edelman on February 23, to Mark Amstead on February 26, to Paul Makuc, Morgan Schick, and Kayla Snyder on February 27. Shaen O'Connor's Leap Year birthday is on February 29, so we wish him happy birthday this month and next.

Happy anniversary this month to Gerry and Marge McMahon on February 7, to Arnold and Judy Hayes on February 13, and to Don and Pat Amstead on February 27.

We enjoy hearing your news, and passing on birthday and anniversary greetings. If you have any you would like to share, please drop me a line at P.O. Box 351, Monterey, MA 01245, or give me a call at 528-6691, if possible before the twelfth of each month. Thank you so much.

— Ann Higgins



CALENDAR

Sundays, AA meetings 9 a.m., in the Monterey Firehouse, Main Road.

Monday, February 2, Public Hearing on Jet Skis, Monterey Town Hall, 7:30 p.m.

Friday, February 6, Public Hearing on Telecommunications Towers, Monterey Town Hall, 7 p.m.

Saturday, February 7, Democratic Committee Caucus, Monterey Fire House, 2 p.m.

Thursday, February 12, Potluck Dinner, Monterey Meeting House, 6:30 p.m. Peter Murkett will discuss the book *Monterey A Local History*.

Saturday, February 14, Monterey Cup Hockey Tournament (weather permitting) behind the Monterey Fire House, 10 a.m.

Saturday, February 21, Square and Contradancing at the Sheffield Grange, Route 7, Sheffield Mass. Music by Mountain Laurel, calling by Joe Baker. All dances are taught and beginners and children are welcome. Refreshments served at intermission. Adults \$5, children \$2. Information 413-528-9385 or 518-329-7578 (8:30-11:30 p.m.).

Friday, February 27, Special Town Meeting, Monterey Fire House, 7 p.m. Town will vote on proposed bylaws for regulations regarding personal watercraft (jet skis) and telecommunications towers.



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How sweet it was. Snow day, January 16, all area schools were cancelled.

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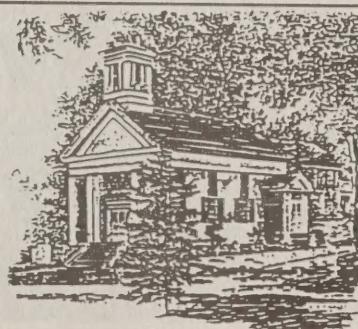
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THE OBSERVER

December 25 - January 25

High temp. (1/6).....	50°
Low temp. (1/1)	-9°
Wind-chilled low temp.(1/1)	23.8°
Avg. high temp.	33.8°
Avg. low temp.	22.0°
Avg. temp.	27.9°
Precip. occ.	21 days
Rain and melted snowfall	6.07"
Snowfall	31.0"
High bar. press.(1/20).....	30.30
Low bar. press. (12.30)	28.76
High wind gust (12/30)	35 mph



Our 30th year

Nancy Dinan
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Deborah D. Mielke
Broker
413-528-1871

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Editor Maggie Leonard
Reporters Jane Black
..... David McAllester
Personal Notes Ann Higgins
Typist Pat Amstead
Mailing Labels Ian Jenkins
Business Manager Barbara Tryon
Treasurer Mari Makuc

Our editorial address is *Monterey News*, P.O. Box 9, Monterey, MA, 01245. We invite letters, articles, drawings, and photographs from readers. Please send submissions (on Macintosh disk if possible) by the fifteenth of the month before publication, addressed to the attention of the Editor. Send any change of address, or initial request to receive the

News by mail (free!) to Barbara Tryon, Business Manager. We will typeset a text-only ad for your Monterey-based business, service, or event, or advertisers may submit an ad with graphics on a Macintosh formatted disk. Address your request for advertising rates and further information to the Editor, or telephone her in Monterey at 413-528-1170.

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Contributions from local artists this month: Sudi Baker, pgs. 10 & 18, Bonner McAllester, p.15, and George Emmons, p.17.

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